



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/874,676	06/05/2001	Steven M. Johnson	HRA/12428	7977

27505 7590 09/22/2005

RANKIN, HILL, PORTER & CLARK LLP
4080 ERIE STREET
WILLOUGHBY, OH 44094-7836

EXAMINER

REKSTAD, ERICK J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2613

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/874,676	Applicant(s) JOHNSON ET AL.	
	Examiner Erick Rekstad	Art Unit 2613	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6-12, 14-18 and 25-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 7, 10 and 11 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This is a Second Non-Final Rejection for Application no. 09/874,676 in response to the amendment filed on December 10, 2004 in which claims 1-3, 6-12, 14-18 and 25-29 are presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed December 10, 2004 with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 25, 26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,636,256 to Passman et al. in view of US Patent Application Publication US 2001/0032335 to Jones.
[claims 1 and 8]

As shown in Figure 1, Passman teaches a communications system, comprising a plurality of vehicles; a plurality of web cameras, each of said cameras being disposed in one of said vehicles and being active when the vehicle is running (note: each vehicle(102) contains a camera (101)). Passman further teaches the means for transmitting information from said vehicles via a wireless network, said transmitted information including video information from said web cameras. Passman further

teaches a server (108, Fig. 1) for receiving the video information and providing a plurality of images for viewing by a plurality of communication system users (122) (Col 3 Lines 9-25 and Col 4 Lines 30-35). Passman does not specifically teach the use of an identifier for each of said web cams. Jones teaches a similar network based camera system as depicted in Figure 7. Jones further teaches providing each camera a specific identifier (Pages 10-11 Paragraphs [0130]-[0132], Page 15 Paragraphs [0215]-[0219]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the system of Passman with the identifier of Jones in order to access the camera over a network as taught by Jones.

[claim 2]

Passman further teaches the communications system according to claim 1, further comprising means for determining said vehicles locations and wherein said transmitted information includes information on said vehicles locations (Col 3 Lines 26-31 and Col 4 Lines 9-29).

[claim 3]

Passman further teaches the communications system according to claim 2, wherein said server is operable to display the vehicles locations (Col 5 Lines 8-15).

[claim 5]

Passman does not specifically teach the server operable to display said identifier such that specific web cams may be selected by a user. Jones teaches the use of a directory system in order to provide all the available devices to the user (Page 11 Paragraph [0133]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time of the invention to combine the system of Passman with the directory system of Jones in order to provide a user with a list of available devices as taught by Jones.

[claim 9]

Passman teaches the use of the system in order to monitor a specific vehicle camera in order to observe a crime and call the police and give them the location of the vehicle (Col 6 Lines 16-25). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the display would have to provide the identifier and location information in order for the observer to notify the police as required by Passman.

[claims 26 and 28]

As shown in Figure 9, Jones teaches the classifying of the video as public or private by putting the devices and users into groups (Page 7 Paragraphs [0075]-[0081]). Jones further requires the use of a password in order to allow the user to have access (Page 5 Paragraph [0065]).

Claims 12,14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,636,256 to Passman et al. in view of US Patent Application Publication US 2001/0032335 to Jones and further in view of US Patent 5,917,405 to Joao.

[claim 12]

As shown above for claim 1, Passman and Jones teach the system and method for collecting, organizing and displaying video information from a plurality of sources. Passman teaches the use of a single camera in a vehicle (Col 4 Lines 10-20, Fig. 2).

Passman further teaches the use of the system in order to monitor the interior of a bus to prevent violence between students (Col 1 Lines 29-36 and Col 6 Lines 16-25). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the system would be used only when said vehicle is operating as this is when students would be on the bus. Passman does not teach the use of a plurality of cameras disposed in a vehicle and being operable only when said vehicle is operating.

As shown in Figure 13, Jones teaches the use of multiple cameras but not disposed in a vehicle. Joao teaches the use of cameras located at any location on the interior of the vehicle in order to observe the driver of the vehicle, or the occupants and cargo of the vehicle (Col 23 Lines 18-35). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of Passman and Jones with the multiple interior cameras of Joao in order to observe the driver and occupants of the vehicle as taught by Joao.

[claim 14]

Passman further teaches the communications system according to claim 1, further comprising means for determining said vehicles locations and wherein said transmitted information includes information on said vehicles locations (Col 3 Lines 26-31 and Col 4 Lines 9-29).

[claim 16]

Jones further teaches providing each camera a specific identifier (Pages 10-11 Paragraphs [0130]-[0132], Page 15 Paragraphs [0215]-[0219]). Jones further teaches the use of a directory system in order to provide all the available devices to the user

(Page 11 Paragraph [0133]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that the directory system of Jones provides a user with a list of available devices.

Claims 15, 17, 18, 22, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,636,256 to Passman et al. in view of US Patent Application Publication US 2001/0032335 to Jones, US Patent 5,917,405 to Joao and further in view of US Patent 6,675,386 to Hendricks.

[claim 15 17, 18, 22, 23 and 24]

As shown above Passman, Jones and Joao teach the system of claim 1 and method of claim 14. As shown in Figure 6, Jones further teaches the selection of a remote camera (steps 60 and 61) (Page 5 Paragraph [0059], Page 8 Paragraph [0091]). Jones does not specifically teach the entering of user-selected parameters. Hendricks discloses a web based network Of video cameras that are disposed in remote areas See figure 8B. The user is capable of searching for predetermined parameters such as cameras in a particular location. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to search for any pertinent information to view the activity in a particular location fitting the parameters.

Claims 27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,636,256 to Passman et al. in view of US Patent Application Publication US 2001/0032335 to Jones and further in view of US Patent 5,793,420 to Schmidt.

[claims 27 and 29]

Art Unit: 2613

Passman and Jones teach the system of claim 1 as shown above. Passman teaches the use of the system in order to prevent violence between students on school buses (Col 1 Lines 29-36 and Col 6 Lines 16-25). Passman does not teach the use of cameras directed towards areas outside said vehicle. Schmidt teaches the use of a plurality of cameras positioned in order to observe the outside of a school bus to prevent vehicles from passing a boarding bus and provided views of blind spots (Col 1 Lines 32-67, Col 4 Line 65-Col 5 Line 15, Fig. 3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the system of Passman and Jones with the cameras of Schmidt in order to provide viewing of unlawful acts and blind spots as taught by Schmidt.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6, 7, 10 and 11 are allowed.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent 5,121,200 to Choi.

US Patent 6,648,222 to McDonald et al.

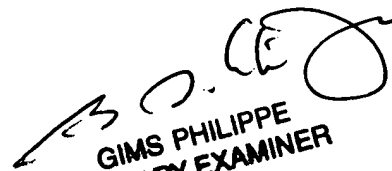
US Patent 5,670,935 to Schofield.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Erick Rekstad whose telephone number is 571-272-7338. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on 571-272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Erick Rekstad
Examiner
AU 2613
(571) 272-7338
erick.rekstad@uspto.gov


GIMS PHILIPPE
PRIMARY EXAMINER